## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:PRMAYHEW:EA:OVARMSTRONG:CED APPROVED BY EA:OVARMSTRONG AF - KATHY SMITH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 220757

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR NK MA

SUBJECT: CHARGE TO CALL ON NEW FOREIGN MINISTER SEPTEMBER 7

REF: TANANARIVE 1417

- 1. WE DO NOT BELIEVE IT IS USEFUL TO ATTEMPT DETAILED REFUTATION OF ALL NORTH KOREAN CHARGES REGARDING US BUILDUP IN SOUTH KOREA. YOU MAY NOTE THAT LEVEL OF US FORCES IN ROK HAS BEEN STABLE SINCE 1972, WHEN SOME FORCES WERE WITHDRAWN. ONLY RECENT DEPLOYMENTS WERE TEMPORARY PRECAUTIONARY ONES TAKEN AFTER AUGUST 18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT, PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO DEMONSTRATE THAT LARGER NORTH KOREAN MILITARY MOVES, IF CONTEMPLATED, WOULD BE RESISTED, AND THAT US WOULD MEET COMMITMENT TO SECURITY OF ROK.
- 2. YOUR MAIN POINT SHOULD BE THAT NORTH KOREAN CHARGE IN ITS AUGUST 5 STATEMENT THAT US HAS "COMPLETED WAR PREPARATIONS" IS PREPOSTEROUS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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IT IS US AND ROK WHO HAVE PROPOSED RESUMPTION NORTH-SOUTH

DIALOGUE AND CONFERENCE OF US, ROK, NORTH KOREA AND PRC IN ORDER FIND WAYS TO REDUCE TENSIONS IN KOREA.

3. REGARDING AUGUST 18 PANMUNJOM INCIDENT, YOU COULD NOTE THAT KIM IL-SUNG MESSAGE TO UN COMMANDER CALLING INCIDENT "REGRETFUL" IS AS CLOSE TO ADMISSION OF RESPONSIBILITY AS NORTH KOREANS HAVE EVER MADE IN SUCH SITUATIONS, AND THAT WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT NORTH KOREANS HAVE BEEN WILLING TO WORK OUT NEW ARRANGEMENTS WHICH SHOULD HELP MINIMIZE SUCH INCIDENTS IN THE PANMUNJOM AREA IN THE FUTURE.

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To: TANANARIVE

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